

# Will you be able to vote?

New state law requires anyone wishing to vote to provide photo identification in order to cast a ballot on Election Day.

Generally, a valid Voter ID must:

- be issued by the United States government or the State of Indiana;
- include the voter's name on the document and the name must match the individual's voter registration record; and
- incorporate a photograph of the voter; and
- must exhibit an expiration date which is after Nov. 2, 2004.

A valid Indiana driver's license is an appropriate form of identification. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) offers identification cards for Indiana



residents who do not drive. If you do not have a state driver's license or identification card, Senate Bill 483 (which passed in 2005 and is now law) allows you to obtain a state ID card free of charge.

Student IDs issued by state colleges are valid for use as a Voter ID if and only if they meet

all of the criteria listed above. Some state college student IDs carry the necessary expiration date; others do not.

Student IDs issued by private colleges are not acceptable for Voter ID purposes because they are not issued by either the State of Indiana or the federal government.

Please visit my website, [www.in.gov/H75](http://www.in.gov/H75), to learn more about this law and how to obtain an identification card and rules concerning absentee voting.

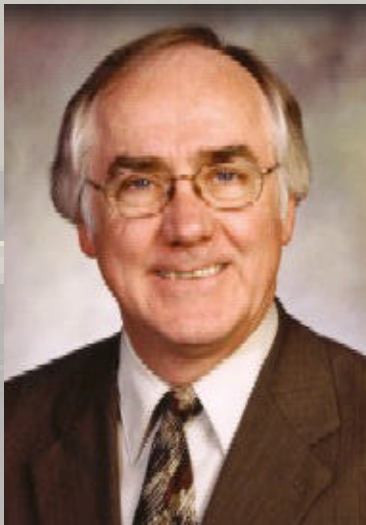
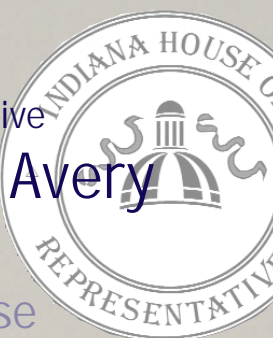
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# Representative Dennis Avery

Working for You



Avery Votes NO on Selling Toll Road

Helping Hoosier Families



# 2006 Session Report

Property Tax Relief



# Additional Property Tax RELIEF

At the start of the 2006 session of the Indiana General Assembly, property tax relief was identified as a priority by members of both parties. When the smoke cleared, we were able to provide some relief for homeowners.

This year, about 1.5 million homeowners will receive a one-time increase in the state homestead credit from 20 to 28 percent. This credit will provide around \$100 million in property tax relief in 2006.



Rep. Avery In 2007, the state homestead deduction will increase from \$35,000 to \$45,000 for one year only. This relief will provide an additional \$127 million in relief for homeowners.

Starting in 2008, the state will gradually phase in a cap on property tax bills at two percent of a home's value. This cap would apply to all classes of property in Indiana, starting in 2010.

While this relief is welcome, it still does not make up for the massive increases in local property taxes that were passed on to home and business owners through the biennial state budget approved in 2005 by the Republicans leading our state's government. At the time, that budget increased the burden on local property taxpayers to the tune of an estimated \$850 million.

And that means you are still going to see your property taxes go up when you get your next tax bill. The time to have enacted true, lasting property tax relief was 2005, but nothing was done by those in charge.

# Major Moves Avery votes NO on selling Toll Road

More than anything else, the 2006 session of the Indiana General Assembly will be remembered for Major Moves, the governor's program to sell the Indiana Toll Road for \$3.8 billion to a foreign group for the next 75 years.

This proposal became law, despite public opposition at a level I have never seen before. In large numbers, the people of Indiana said they did not want a public asset built with their tax dollars handed over to a foreign corporation, which then will pocket all profits generated by the toll road for 75 years. I heard you and voted **AGAINST** the plan, but our concerns were not enough to change the minds of the majorities in control of the Indiana House and Senate.

Now that Major Moves has become law, what will happen in Indiana? From now until 2081, when you travel the Indiana Toll Road, your tolls will be sent overseas.

The governor says Indiana will begin work on around 200 road and bridge projects with the \$3.8 billion received from the foreign investors. I believe the sale doesn't provide enough funding to pay for all of the Major Moves projects promised by the governor.

An extension of Interstate 69 from Evansville to Indianapolis will be built, but the completion of that project will be delayed because Marion County lawmakers demanded a new location at the northern end of the extension. No one can say when construction on the I-69 extension will be completed.

When that extension is built, it will be a toll road, likely owned and operated by a foreign company. Seventy percent of you who responded to my legislative survey were opposed to privatizing I-69. Thanks to the demands of some Republican Marion County legislators, the I-69 extension will be a toll road from Evansville to Martinsville, but not from Martinsville to Indianapolis.

The implications of Major Moves will be felt in Indiana for years to come. If anything, more time was needed to fully analyze the impact of Major Moves. I fear we will be finding out more and more disturbing details about it as time goes on.



# Indiana tightens eminent domain law

Improving protection for homeowners

In 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that local governments can use the process of eminent domain to take private property, such as homes and businesses, in order to hand it over to a private developer.

Indiana lawmakers immediately began working on a plan to protect the property rights of Hoosiers. Months of bipartisan work has resulted in legislation that tightens Indiana's eminent domain laws and restricts the ability of most government units to seize private property and transfer it to private entities for development.

The new legislation sets strict standards for property acquisition through eminent domain, and limits its use to only truly blighted and decaying properties. This will prevent a developer from being able to have a local government use eminent domain to seize your property simply because they think it might be a good spot for a new strip mall.

It received unanimous support, but there are still potential problems that need to be addressed. Most trou-



Students from Delaware Elementary School join Rep. Dennis Avery on the House floor during a resolution honoring Evansville's Girls in Bloom program.

blesome is the fact that the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is exempt from complying with the new restrictions.

There are concerns that INDOT will use this exemption to seize property for some of the road privatization projects proposed by the governor, such as the Interstate 69 extension or other unannounced projects in other areas of the state.

## A summary of new legislation

### FUNERAL PROTESTS



New legislation increases the penalty for disorderly conduct occurring near the location of a funeral, memorial service, or viewing. The bill is largely in response to a group from the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas, that has chosen to stage protests at the funerals of Hoosier soldiers killed in action, using the occasion to make a political statement against homosexuality.

### MILITARY RELIEF FUND

We established the military relief fund similar to my proposal to provide grants for families of Indiana Guardsmen and Reservists whose family members have been called into duty since September 11, 2001. A portion of the money for the fund will be raised through the sale of a new Hoosier veteran license plate created through the bill.

### INDIANA WINERIES

We passed compromise legislation to help end the controversy over farm winery shipments. The legislation will allow the 32 in-state wineries to ship as many as 24 cases per year directly to Indiana customers who are confirmed to be at least 21 years old. Eligible wineries must sell fewer than 500,000 gallons total in Indiana per year and can ship only 3,000 cases total per year.

### HOME IMPROVEMENT FRAUD



The circumstances under which home improvement fraud can now be prosecuted have been expanded. The bill increases the penalties for home improvement fraud if the improvements were made on the property of a senior citizen or if more than two clauses of home improvement laws were violated.

AQUILERA	DAY
AUSTIN	DEBENO
AYRES	DICKINSON
BARDON	DOBBS
BAUER	DODGE
BEHNING	DUNCAN
BELL	DYORAK
BISCHOFF	ESPICH
BORDERS	FOLEY
BORROR	FRIEND
BOTTORFF	FRIZZELL
	FRY